UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/16 (Part II)*
9 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of the second part of its thirty-second session. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/47/16) and will include the report of the Committee on the first part of its session (A/47/16 (Part I)).

92-49336 3490g (E) 211092 221092

/...

CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
	Part Two		
	Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the second part of its thirty-second session, held at United Nations Headquarters from 31 August to 18 September 1992		
I.	ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	1 - 14	5
	A. Agenda	2	5
	B. Election of a Vice-Chairman	3	5
	C. Attendance	4 - 7	5
	D. Documentation	8 - 13	6
	E. Adoption of the report of the Committee	14	7
II.	PROGRAMME QUESTIONS	15 - 267	8
	A. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997	15 - 202	8
	General considerations	15 - 22	8
	Programme 1. Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information	23 - 31	9
	Programme 2. Political and Security Council Affairs	32 - 37	11
	Programme 3. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services	38 - 42	11
	Programme 4. Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization	43 - 54	12
	Programme 5. Question of Palestine	55 - 58	13
	Programme 6. Elimination of apartheid	59 - 65	14
	Programme 7. Disarmament	66 - 68	15
	Programme 8. Peaceful uses of outer space	69 - 70	16
	Programme 11. Overall issues and policies, including coordination	71 - 76	16

CONTENTS (continued)

Chapter			Paragraphs	Page
	Programme 12.	Global development issues and policies	77 - 90	17
	Programme 13.	Trade and development	91 - 95	18
	Programme 14.	Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development	96 - 103	19
	Programme 15.	Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes	104 - 106	20
	Programme 16.	Environment	107 - 108	21
	Programme 17.	Science and technology for sustainable development	109 - 119	21
	Programme 18.	Population	120 - 125	22
	Programme 19.	Natural resources	126 - 128	23
	Programme 20.	Energy	129 - 134	23
	Programme 21.	Public administration and finance	135 - 136	25
	Programme 22.	Human settlements	137 - 138	25
	Programme 23.	Transnational corporations	139 - 145	25
	Programme 24.	Statistics	146 - 147	26
	Programme 28.	International drug control	148 - 155	27
	Programme 30.	Regional cooperation for development in Africa	156 - 168	28
	Programme 32.	Regional cooperation for development in Europe	169 - 172	29
	Programme 33.	Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean	173 - 174	30
	Programme 36.	International protection of and assistance to refugees	175 - 177	30
	Programme 37.	Emergency humanitarian assistance	178 - 182	30

CONTENTS (continued)

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
	Programme 38. Public information	183 - 195	31
	Programme 45. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development	196 - 202	33
B.	Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995	203 - 228	35
C.	Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget	229 - 247	38
D.	Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993	248 - 267	40
E.	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations		
III.	COORDINATION QUESTIONS	268 - 294	44
A.	Question of the timing and selection of a topic for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination	268 - 274	44
B.	System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development	275 - 294	45

ANNEXES

I.	Agenda for the resumed thirty-second session of the Committee ..	48
II.	List of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirty-second session	49

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its resumed thirty-second session at United Nations Headquarters from 31 August to 18 September 1992. It held 24 meetings (22nd to 45th meetings), and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the resumed thirty-second session is reproduced in annex I.

B. Election of a Vice-Chairman

3. At its forty-second meeting, on 16 September, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda) as Vice-Chairman in replacement of Mr. David Etuket (Uganda), who was unable to attend the session.

C. Attendance

4. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Bahamas
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Morocco
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Russian Federation
Sri Lanka
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia

5. The following States members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Australia
Austria
Bolivia
Canada
Cuba
Finland
Hungary
Ireland
Latvia
Mexico
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Togo
Venezuela

6. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Health Organization

7. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the Acting Controller and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe.

D. Documentation

8. The list of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirty-second session is contained in annex II.

9. The Committee expressed dismay about the persistent and unacceptable lateness of documentation. Some of the revisions to the plan were still being drafted after the Committee had begun its resumed session. This severely impeded the work of the Committee, and prevented it from completing its review of the proposed revisions.

10. The Committee believed that the Secretariat's control of the process of documentation, in particular its drafting phase, has been shown to be seriously deficient and needed to be radically improved.

11. The Committee recommended that, within the framework of the review of the format and structure of the medium-term plan, ways of ensuring the timeliness of the provision of documentation should be given priority attention. In the shorter term, the Committee requested the Secretariat to distribute, not later than 1 February of the year in which the Committee meets, a document setting out in detail the internal planning of documentation and the dates of submission of documents to Member States, and to keep them informed periodically.

12. The Committee recalled with full vigour the importance of the six-week rule for the availability of documentation. It stressed that it was not in a position fully to fulfil its responsibilities in the absence of relevant documents. It stated that, at future sessions, it would be prepared to refuse to consider agenda items for which pre-session documents were presented after the beginning of the session.

13. The Committee decided to include the question of documentation on the agenda of its thirty-third session.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

14. At its 44th and 45th meetings, on 18 and 19 September 1992, the Committee adopted the draft report on its resumed thirty-second session (E/AC.51/1992/L.5 and Add.1-36), as orally revised and amended during the discussion.

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Discussion

15. The Committee had considered the proposed revisions to 10 programmes during the first part of its session. At its resumed session the Committee was to review proposed revisions to 27 programmes for which the Committee was competent, in accordance with the programme planning regulations and rules, as well as further revisions to three of the programmes that it had already considered during the first part of its session.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. The Committee noted that, to a considerable extent, the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan incorporated the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the first phase of the ongoing process of restructuring. The Committee recommended approval of those revisions on the understanding that further modifications would be made to the relevant programmes to take into account decisions by the General Assembly, inter alia, on the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular Agenda 21, and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the ongoing process of restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors, as foreseen by the Economic and Social Council.

17. The Committee recommended that references throughout the revisions of the medium-term plan to countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy be made consistently, using that terminology.

18. The Committee stressed that the introduction of the concept of sustainable development in the proposed revisions to a number of programmes should be construed not as narrowing the scope of the activities mandated under the programmes contained in the initial version of the medium-term plan, but rather as adding a new dimension to their implementation.

19. The Committee noted that reference was made in a number of proposed revisions to decisions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and to bulletins of the Secretary-General. In that connection, the Committee noted that those do not constitute mandates for programmes.

20. The Committee continued its consideration of the format of the medium-term plan. It considered that every effort should be made to maintain the prominent place of the plan as a policy directive for the work of the Organization. The Committee noted that only a limited number of the revised programmes had been reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies and

regretted that situation, which deprived the Committee of a valuable substantive input to its own review. It considered that ways should be found to improve the consideration of the plan and the revisions to the plan by those bodies.

21. The Committee recommended that a prototype of a possible new format of the medium-term plan should be presented to the Committee at its thirty-third session. The prototype should take into account the relevant conclusions of the seminar on the prototype of a new budget document and should address, in particular, issues concerning the manageability of the drafting and revision process, including the questions of preparation and submission of documentation and the review of programme planning documents by subsidiary intergovernmental machinery.

22. The Committee recommended that an ad hoc technical seminar of experts should be convened in the field of programme planning of the United Nations, without additional cost to the Organization, in order to assist the Secretariat in the drafting of the proposal.

Programme 1. Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information

23. At its 32nd, 33rd and 34th meetings, on 9 and 10 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 1)).

Discussion

24. A number of delegations felt that the proposed revisions did not adequately reflect the scale of changes in this area of work and that further revisions would be needed in the near future in the light of developing trends and related mandates. It was also suggested that there should be greater emphasis on early warning and on the interlinkages between political, economic and social factors.

25. A number of delegations considered that the proposed revision to paragraph 1.10 of programme 1, which referred to the Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), should be deleted, since the report had yet to be considered by the relevant intergovernmental organs and there were therefore no related mandates. Other delegations felt that the Committee could support reference to that report, either if such support were made conditional on the subsequent endorsement of the report by the General Assembly and the Security Council or if its current status were specified more clearly.

26. Questions were raised about references in the proposed revisions to preventive diplomacy and the related mandates. It was also suggested that the proposed revision should have more fully reflected the existing concepts of good offices, peacemaking and peace-keeping.

27. A number of delegations felt that the proposed revision to paragraph 1.21 (b) suggested duplication in the area of collection, analysis

and dissemination of information between subprogramme 3 of programme 1 and programme 38 (Public information). The Committee noted in this connection that functions related to the collection and dissemination of publicly available information to senior officials of the Organization, carried out by the News Distribution Section of the former Office for Research and the Collection of Information of the United Nations Secretariat, had been transferred to the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and that a related revision to programme 38 was currently being proposed. It was noted that the consolidation under subprogramme 3 of functions relating to analysis of information and preparation of studies and reports previously provided for under that subprogramme of programme 1 and under subprogramme 2 of programme 2 was currently being proposed.

28. One delegation was of the view that the proposed revisions to programme 1 could have better reflected the distinction in responsibilities for the preparation of reports and other activities related to peace issues proposed under paragraph 1.21 of this programme and paragraph 2.11 of programme 2.

29. In reply to queries, the United Nations Secretariat informed the Committee that the use of the United Nations Information Centres as a source of political information, as indicated in the proposed revision to paragraph 1.21 (b), was included in the current plan and related to publicly available information sent to Headquarters by the Centres.

Conclusions and recommendations

30. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's proposals on preventive diplomacy in his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" were the subject of current discussions in the relevant intergovernmental bodies and recommended that the proposed provisions be reviewed by the General Assembly in the light of the outcome of those discussions.

31. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the above understanding and the following modifications:

(a) Insert, at the end of paragraph 1.8 ", including General Assembly resolution 46/59";

(b) Replace, in the first sentence of paragraph 1.9, the words "such as" by "which have been defined in General Assembly resolution 46/48, such as fact-finding, pursuant to the Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security as approved by the General Assembly, and";

(c) Insert, at the end of paragraph 1.12, "as well as annual General Assembly resolutions on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects, most recently resolution 46/48";

(d) Insert, in the proposed revision to paragraph 1.21 (f), after the words "regional organizations" the words "as appropriate".

Programme 2. Political and Security Council Affairs

32. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings, on 9 and 10 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 2 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 2)).

33. One delegation drew the Committee's attention to the advantages of integrating the Field Operations Division in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, in view of the key role played by the Division in the conduct of peace-keeping operations.

34. One delegation believed the matter of the location of the Field Operations Division was up to the discretion of the Secretary-General.

35. One delegation was of the view that the proposed revisions could have better reflected the distinction in responsibilities for the preparation of reports and other activities related to peace issues undertaken under paragraph 2.11 of this programme and under paragraph 1.21 of programme 1.

Conclusions and recommendations

36. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's Bulletin does not constitute a mandate for programmes.

37. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 2 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) At the end of paragraph 2.11 (f), after the words Zone of Peace, add "and as considered at the meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979";

(b) In paragraph 2.8, a reference to General Assembly resolutions 44/11 and 43/61, concerning activities related to the International Day of Peace and the International Week of Science and Peace respectively, should be included.

Programme 3. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

38. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings, on 9 and 10 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 3 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 3)).

Discussion

39. One delegation noted that the transfer to the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat of functions relating to the technical servicing of meetings in the economic and social fields, as referred to in paragraph 3.3 of the proposed revisions to this programme, split servicing functions for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that had only recently been consolidated. It expressed concern that

there should be adequate cooperation among the different offices of the Secretariat that are now responsible for technical servicing of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

40. Several delegations were of the view that paragraph 3.2 of the proposed revisions to programme 3 needed to be revised. One delegation suggested that the paragraph be deleted.

Conclusions and recommendations

41. The Committee noted the confirmation by the Secretariat that the reference to a Secretary-General's Bulletin in the proposed revision to paragraph 3.3 should not be seen as a mandate.

42. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 3 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 4. Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization

43. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 10 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 4 (Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 4)).

Discussion

44. A number of delegations queried reference to the concept of preventive diplomacy in the proposed revisions.

45. A number of delegations disagreed with the proposed revision to the title of the former subprogramme 2, Trusteeship and decolonization, to read subprogramme 3, Self-determination, trusteeship and decolonization, since this gave undue prominence to one aspect of work in this area. A number of delegations, however, supported the change.

46. A number of delegations raised questions about the failure to refer to economic and social aspects of cooperation under the proposed subprogramme 2 (Regional, political and security cooperation). The Committee noted that references to such cooperation would be maintained under subprogramme 1 (Special political questions).

47. A number of delegations felt that the reference to cooperation with regional organizations in the proposed new paragraph 4.28 should make clear that such cooperation should be in accordance with the respective mandates of those organizations.

48. One delegation queried the relevance of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations in the context of these revisions, as well as the identity of the relevant provisions referred to in the proposed new paragraph 4.29.

49. A number of delegations supported the inclusion of the proposed new subprogramme 4 (Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections) in view of the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/137. Several delegations stressed that national elections were an internal matter of sovereign States and that there was no need for a general role for the United Nations. Assistance by the United Nations should be limited on a case-by-case basis to those instances where it had been requested and should fully respect Article 2 of the Charter concerning matters within the domestic jurisdiction of States. Some delegations therefore questioned the inclusion of subprogramme 4.

50. A number of delegations questioned reference to peacemaking, human rights and development assistance in the second sentence of the proposed paragraph 4.39 and suggested deletion of the text beginning "as a mechanism to promote ...".

51. A number of delegations questioned whether there was a mandate for activities included in the proposed paragraphs 4.40 (d) and (g).

52. One delegation stressed the importance of respecting the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the roster of international experts referred to in the proposed paragraph 4.40 (e).

Conclusions and recommendations

53. The Committee recommended the approval of subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 of the revisions to programme 4 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Insert, after the words "regional organizations" in the first sentence of paragraph 4.28, the words "as appropriate";

(b) Retain, as agreed by the Committee, the title of subprogramme 3 as contained in programme 4 of the current medium-term plan (A/45/6/Rev.1).

54. The Committee was unable to reach an agreed recommendation on subprogramme 4 and requested the General Assembly to give it further consideration.

Programme 5. Question of Palestine

55. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 10 September 1992, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 5 (Question of Palestine) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 5)).

Discussion

56. Several delegations questioned the significance and necessity of the proposed revisions to paragraphs 5.12 and 5.13 (e). One delegation suggested that the revision to paragraph 5.12 should read "to disseminate information and mobilize support for".

57. A number of delegations felt that current developments risked rendering the proposed revisions obsolete and that the Secretariat should keep them under close review.

Conclusions and recommendations

58. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 5 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification: retention of the original wording of paragraph 5.13 (f).

Programme 6. Elimination of apartheid

59. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 10 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 6 (Elimination of apartheid) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 6)).

Discussion

60. A number of delegations raised questions about whether the objectives contained in proposed paragraphs 6.26 (a) and (c) to (f) were justified by the relevant mandates, as referred to in the proposed paragraph 6.25.

61. A number of delegations expressed the view that the words "a new, non-racial and democratic South Africa" at the end of the proposed title of subprogramme 1, were not justified at the present stage.

62. A number of delegations proposed that the words "through peaceful means" proposed for insertion in proposed new paragraph 6.3 should not be inserted and that the words "peacefully" and "peaceful" should be deleted from proposed paragraphs 6.13 and 6.19 respectively.

63. The Committee noted with concern that the proposed revisions had not been reviewed by the Special Committee against Apartheid.

Conclusions and recommendations

64. The Committee noted that the decision of the Administrative Committee on Coordination taken in April 1991, which is reflected in proposed paragraph 6.34, did not constitute a legislative mandate.

65. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 6 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) At the end of proposed paragraph 6.3 (c), insert "including, in the light of developments in South Africa, the possible mobilization of international action against apartheid";

(b) Retain the first sentence of proposed paragraph 6.4;

(c) In proposed paragraph 6.13, before the last sentence insert "The Special Committee will also be responsible for the possible mobilization of international action against apartheid in the light of developments in South Africa";

(d) In proposed paragraph 6.14, third sentence, delete the phrase "to be the focal point" and insert "its programme of work";

(e) In proposed paragraph 6.16 and throughout the text, the titles of subprogrammes 1 and 3 should read as follows:

(i) "Subprogramme 1. Monitoring and coordination of international action against apartheid and in support of political processes leading to a new, non-racial and democratic South Africa";

(ii) "Subprogramme 3. Publicity against apartheid";

(f) Subparagraph 6.36 (e) should read "(e) Ensuring the necessary coordination of information and promotional activities of the United Nations system relating to apartheid with regard to and in South Africa;"

(g) Insert a new subparagraph, 6.36 (g), reading "Resuming and promoting, if necessary, the international campaign against apartheid".

Programme 7. Disarmament

66. At its 34th meeting, on 10 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 7 (Disarmament) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 7)).

Discussion

67. A number of delegations believed that the text of the proposed new paragraph (7.9) of programme 7 needed to be substantially revised. One delegation questioned the need for adding the paragraph to the text of the revisions to this programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

68. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In the proposed paragraph 7.9:

(i) In the second sentence, after the word "issues", replace "that" with "which may";

(ii) Replace the third sentence with the following: "This would require appropriate adjustments in the work of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat with a view to promoting

security, arms control and disarmament, taking into account the Declaration of the Summit Meeting of the Security Council of 31 January 1992, as appropriate";

(b) In old paragraph 7.42, add a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 L, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters a Register of Conventional Arms.

Programme 8. Peaceful uses of outer space

69. At its 34th meeting, on 10 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 8 (Peaceful uses of outer space) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 8)).

Conclusions and recommendations

70. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 8 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 11. Overall issues and policies, including coordination

71. At its 40th meeting, on 15 September 1992, the Committee considered the question of revisions to programme 11 (Overall issues and policies, including coordination) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 11)), on the basis of a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1992/CRP.4).

Discussion

72. A number of delegations recognized the difficulties faced by the Secretariat in proposing revisions to programme 11 at the present juncture in view of the ongoing reviews mentioned in the conference room paper and the direct implications that the outcome of those reviews would have on the content of the programme.

73. A number of delegations considered that revisions to programme 11 could have been submitted, and expressed their concern that the submission of revisions in 1993 would add to the workload of the Committee, since it would mean a simultaneous review of the revisions and of the related section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

74. A number of delegations emphasized the important role that programme 11 played in ensuring effective coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic and social areas. They stressed that revisions to programme 11 would also have implications for the content of various other programmes of the medium-term plan in those areas.

Conclusions and recommendations

75. The Committee took note of the proposals made by the Secretariat in document E/AC.51/1992/CRP.4.

76. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should submit revisions to programme 11 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Programme 12. Global development issues and policies

77. At its 34th to 36th meetings, on 10 and 11 September 1992, the Committee considered the revisions to programme 12 (Global development issues and policies) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 12)).

Discussion

78. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of programme 12 for defining global objectives and courses of action for sustainable development. A number of delegations indicated that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had a substantial impact with regard to strategies and objectives established in the context of the programme, and stressed the role of the programme for the follow-up of the Conference. In the view of a number of delegations, the follow-up activities of the Conference were not adequately reflected in the revisions.

79. A number of delegations questioned the validity of revisions to the programme that reflected the outcome of the Conference and indicated that such revisions could be made only after the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, had taken a decision on the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference. They were of the view that the review of the revisions should be postponed until the Committee's thirty-third session, in 1993, at which time that review could be undertaken on the basis of the follow-up proposals to be made by the Secretary-General and related decisions taken by the General Assembly. A number of delegations, however, were of the view that the proposed revisions could be reviewed by the Committee at its current session.

80. A number of delegations considered that there was duplication between some of the activities programmed under programme 12 and those programmed under programme 13 (International trade).

81. A number of delegations questioned the rationale for the deletion of the words "and social" in paragraph 12.2, as those words stressed the interrelation of the economic and social aspects of development. They therefore suggested that the existing text of the paragraph be retained. Other delegations supported the proposal of the Secretary-General.

82. A number of delegations suggested the deletion of the last sentence in revised paragraph 12.8.

83. A number of delegations suggested that the text proposed to replace the text in paragraph 12.23 be expanded to reflect the possible impact of the ongoing transformation of the economic structure and policies in Eastern Europe and in the republics of the former Soviet Union on the economy of the developing countries. One delegation suggested that the last sentence of the revised text proposed for paragraph 12.23 be deleted.

84. A number of delegations felt that the text proposed to replace paragraph 12.32 dealt with problems outside the scope of subprogramme 2 and suggested that the existing text be retained instead.

85. A number of delegations were of the view that the activities proposed in the new paragraph 12.60 overlapped with the mandates of UNCTAD and GATT.

86. A number of delegations suggested that a reference to UNDP should be added in the text of paragraph 12.74.

87. One delegation suggested that the reference to the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade in paragraph 12.3 be deleted, since that mandate was redundant.

88. One delegation suggested that a reference to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development be included in paragraph 12.3.

89. One delegation questioned the revisions proposed for paragraph 12.79 and suggested that the existing text be retained.

Conclusions and recommendations

90. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 12 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, on the understanding that modifications would be made to the programme taking into account the decisions of the General Assembly on, inter alia, the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular Agenda 21, and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the ongoing process of restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors, as foreseen by the Economic and Social Council, and with the following modifications of the programme narrative:

Paragraph 12.17: Delete the second sentence of the revisions.

Paragraph 12.23: Replace the last sentence of the revisions with the following: "A careful and continuing examination of the evolving situation of these countries, including the implications for developing countries, as well as promotion of international cooperation in resolving issues relating thereto, will be needed in the 1990s and probably beyond."

Programme 13. Trade and development

91. At its 38th and 39th meetings, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 13 (Trade and development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 13)).

Discussion

92. A number of delegations referred to the need for effective coordination by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with other United Nations entities and organizations in order to avoid duplication of activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

93. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's proposals on the allocation of high priority to subprogrammes in paragraph 13.30 had not yet been substantively reviewed by the concerned intergovernmental body. In the circumstances and with the late availability of relevant documents, the Committee was unable to make substantive recommendations on the issue of priorities, and recommended that the Trade and Development Board should provide advice to the General Assembly to assist it in its further consideration of this issue.

94. With that exception, the Committee recommended endorsement of the textual amendments to the revisions proposed by the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board.

95. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 13 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above recommendations and with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 13.31, a reference to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/5/Rev.1) should be added;

(b) In paragraph 13.68, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/145 should be added.

Programme 14. Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development

96. At its 38th and 39th meetings, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 14 (Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 14)).

Discussion

97. A number of delegations expressed regret that the late issuance of the document did not allow time for the proposed revisions to be examined thoroughly.

98. A number of delegations stressed the importance of coordinating activities concerning the least developed countries implemented under programmes 14 and 15.

Conclusions and recommendations

99. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's proposals on the allocation of high priority to subprogrammes in paragraph 14.13 had not yet been substantively reviewed by the intergovernmental body concerned. The Committee, in these circumstances and with the late availability of relevant documents, was unable to make substantive recommendations on the issue of priorities, and recommended that the Trade and Development Board should provide advice to the General Assembly to assist it in its further consideration of the issue.

100. With that exception, the Committee recommended endorsement of the textual amendments to the revisions proposed by the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board.

101. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 14 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the above recommendations.

102. At its 42nd meeting, on 16 September, the Committee considered additional revisions to programme 14 of the medium-term plan (A/47/6 (Prog. 14)/Add.1).

103. The Committee recommended approval of the additional revisions to programme 14 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 15. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes

104. At its 38th and 39th meetings, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 15)).

Conclusions and recommendations

105. The Committee recommended endorsement of the amendment to the revisions proposed by the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board.

106. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 15 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the above recommendation and with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 15.11: Replace "and serious debt-servicing problems" with "serious external sector problems and geographical handicaps where appropriate";

(b) Paragraph 15.12 (b): At the end of the paragraph, add "designed to promote sustainable development and economic and social progress";

(c) Paragraph 15.13 (b): At the end of the paragraph, replace "in the context of the international environment and domestic factors" with "taking into account their development strategies and the international environment";

(d) Paragraph 15.19 (a): Insert the words "and transit" after "land-locked".

Programme 16. Environment

107. At its 43rd meeting, on 16 September 1992, the Committee was informed that the fascicle containing revisions to programme 16 (Environment) had not yet been issued as an official document.

108. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with this situation, which precluded its review of the proposed revisions under this programme. The Committee decided to refer those revisions to the General Assembly and recommended that the Assembly consider them in depth.

Programme 17. Science and technology for sustainable development

109. At its 40th meeting, on 15 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 17 (Science and technology for sustainable development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 17)).

Discussion

110. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions placed excessive emphasis on the environmental aspects of science and technology issues and did not take into account the needs of developing countries to strengthen their technological capacities, including through access to new technologies. In this context they felt that the proposed new title of programme 17 unduly reduced the scope of the programme. A number of delegations, however, supported the proposals of the Secretary-General.

111. A number of delegations were of the view that the narrative of the programme was too general and lacked a concrete and specific description of what would be done and what was expected to be achieved.

112. A number of delegations felt that subprogramme 4 was of limited importance and could be deleted. Related activities could be transferred to other subprogrammes under programme 17 and to programme 38 (Public information), as appropriate.

113. One delegation proposed that subprogrammes 1 and 2 be consolidated into one subprogramme entitled "Industrial technology".

114. One delegation proposed the following amendments to the revisions:

(a) Paragraph 17.4 (d): Insert the words "avoiding duplication and" after the words "with a view to";

(b) Paragraph 17.4 (e): Replace the text of subparagraph (e) with the following: "to support and harmonize with the work of the high-level Commission on Sustainable Development, to be established in accordance with chapter 38 of Agenda 21, within the mandate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development";

(c) Paragraph 17.7: In the penultimate sentence delete the word "effectively" and, after the word "reasonable", insert the word "far-sighted".

115. One delegation questioned the rationale for replacing the words "where possible" with "as needed" in the first sentence of paragraph 17.18 and suggested that the existing text be retained.

116. One delegation did not agree with the deletion of paragraph 17.19 and suggested that the paragraph be retained.

117. One delegation proposed that the words "increasing the efficiency" in paragraph 17.21 (g) be replaced by the words "wider application".

Conclusions and recommendations

118. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 20 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 17.11: At the end of the paragraph, delete the following words: "and the Task Force on Sustainable Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination";

(b) Paragraph 17.12: In the third line from the bottom, after the word "particularly", insert the words "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and";

(c) Paragraph 17.24 (f): After the words "developing countries" insert the words "and countries in transition from central planning to a market economy";

(d) In the general orientation part of the narrative, reference should be made to the need to address specific problems that countries in transition from central planning to a market economy confront in strengthening their technological capacity.

119. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should review the proposed revisions to the titles of programme 17 and subprogramme 1 in the light of the relevant mandates. Pending the decision of the Assembly on this issue, the Committee recommended that the existing titles be maintained.

Programme 18. Population

120. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 18 (Population) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 18)).

Discussion

121. A number of delegations suggested that a reference to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/5/Rev.1) and to Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/4, Parts I to IV), adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, be added to the legislative mandates for subprogrammes 3 and 4 listed in paragraphs 18.23 and 18.33 respectively.

122. One delegation suggested that, in the proposed revisions to paragraph 18.3, the word "environment" be replaced with the words "sustainable development".

123. One delegation suggested that, in the second sentence of paragraph 18.10, the word "organizations" be replaced with the word "institutions" and that a reference to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) be added in that paragraph.

124. One delegation suggested that, in the proposed revision to paragraph 18.26, the words "and development" be added after the word "environment".

Conclusions and recommendations

125. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 19. Natural resources

126. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 19 (Natural resources) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 19)).

Discussion

127. A number of delegations suggested that a reference to the 1991 Dublin Conference be made in paragraph 19.9. Other delegations pointed out the difficulties encountered in the course of the debate in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which had resulted in disagreement over inclusion of that reference in Agenda 21.

Conclusions and recommendations

128. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 19 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 20. Energy

129. At its 39th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 20 (Energy) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 20)).

Discussion

130. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions placed excessive emphasis on environmental aspects of energy issues and did not take sufficiently into account the difficulties that developing countries faced in developing their energy resources. A number of delegations were of the view that the revisions overemphasized issues of energy supply, while the problems of energy conservation had not received adequate treatment. A number of delegations supported the proposals by the Secretary-General.

131. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the contribution that the programme could make to the development of the countries in transition from central planning to market economy and suggested that reference to those countries be made under various paragraphs of the programme, as appropriate.

132. One delegation proposed that the word "ecologically" be inserted between the words "promotion of" and "sustainable" in the title of subprogramme 2, and that the title of subprogramme 5 be modified to read as follows: "Energy conservation".

133. A number of delegations suggested that subprogramme 3 be designated high priority.

Conclusions and recommendations

134. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 20 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 20.5: At the end of the paragraph, add the following: "In the light of the commitments made by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1, annex) and the States participating in the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, programmes for energy development in developing countries should take into account the fact that per capita emissions of greenhouse gases in developing countries are still relatively low and, given the overriding priority of development in developing countries, energy consumption and the attendant increase in such emissions will grow to meet their social and developmental needs.";

(b) Paragraph 20.10: In the last line of the paragraph, after the word "technology", insert "including on concessional and preferential terms";

(c) Paragraph 20.13: Add the words "including on non-commercial and preferential terms" after "sound technology" in the title of subprogramme 6;

(d) Paragraph 20.14: Add subprogrammes 2 and 3 to the list of subprogrammes designated high priority;

(e) Paragraph 20.17: In the eleventh line, replace "safer" with "sound";

(f) Paragraph 20.20: In the second line from the bottom, replace the words "developing countries' potentials" with "the potentials of member States, in particular developing countries";

(g) Paragraph 20.26: In the penultimate line, replace the words "in line with" by "to meet" and the word "with" by "taking into account";

(h) Paragraph 20.27: In the second line from the bottom, replace the words "including the sources envisaged" with "including adequate, new and additional resources envisaged in Chapter 33";

(i) Paragraph 20.39: In the fifth line from the bottom, after the words "experts from", insert "interested countries in particular from";

(j) Paragraph 20.48: Delete the words "mature and" in the second line.

Programme 21. Public administration and finance

135. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 21 (Public administration and finance) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 21)).

Conclusions and recommendations

136. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 21 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 22. Human settlements

137. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 22 (Human settlements) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 22)).

Conclusions and recommendations

138. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 22 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 23. Transnational corporations

139. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 23 (Transnational corporations) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 23)).

Discussion

140. A number of delegations were of the view that the scope of the proposed revisions to subprogrammes 1 and 2 did not justify the proposed changes in the

titles of those subprogrammes. Other delegations considered those changes to be compatible with the evolving approaches to transnational corporations, particularly in the context of the interest in attracting foreign direct investment.

141. A number of delegations suggested that a reference to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/34 and 1992/35 be added to paragraph 23.19, as legislative authority for subprogramme 2.

142. A number of delegations were of the view that programme 23 duplicated activities programmed under programme 13 (International trade) and stressed that the Department of Economic and Social Development and the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should fully coordinate the implementation of their activities under those programmes.

143. Some delegations stated that, in view of the recent developments in the United Nations, the references to a code of conduct contained in paragraphs 23.13 and 23.15 (a) were no longer relevant. Other delegations did not share that view.

144. One delegation suggested deleting the words "matters relating to" in the title of subprogramme 3.

Conclusions and recommendation

145. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 23 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

> In paragraph 23.25 (d), after "developing countries" insert "and countries in transition from central planning to a market economy".

Programme 24. Statistics

146. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 24 (Statistics) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 24)).

Conclusions and recommendations

147. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 24 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

> Paragraph 24.15: After the words "economies in transition" add the words "from central planning to market economy".

Programme 28. International drug control

148. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 16 September 1992, the Committee considered programme 28 (International drug control) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 28)).

Discussion

149. A number of delegations found that the proposed revisions adequately reflected the new mandates given to the United Nations Drug Control Programme.

150. One delegation felt that the plan should have included more information on how the United Nations International Drug Control Programme planned to fulfil its leading role in the area of international drug control.

151. A number of delegations referred to the importance of crop and income substitutes and to the needs of transit countries. Other delegations referred to specific requirements at the regional level, and to those of the African countries in particular.

152. One delegation stressed the importance of the reference to the illegal arms trade and terrorist practices in paragraph 28.27.

153. One delegation recommended that, in subprogramme 8, paragraph 28.63 (c), the reference to table II should be deleted.

Conclusions and recommendations

154. The Committee recommended that this programme should be considered as a possible subject for future in-depth evaluation.

155. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 28 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 28.7 of the proposed revisions, the third from the last sentence should read: "Support will be increased for regional cooperation, particularly initiatives to eliminate illicit cultivation through development of alternative income sources and integrated rural development";

(b) In paragraph 28.8 of the proposed revisions, in the third from the last line, after the words "assists Governments", insert "at their request";

(c) In paragraph 28.12, subprogramme 2 should be designated high priority;

(d) At the end of paragraph 28.21 (f) of the proposed revisions, insert the words "with the consent of Governments";

(e) In paragraph 28.21 (g) of the proposed revisions, after the word "crop", insert the words "substitution and";

(f) In paragraph 28.39, after "psychotropic substances" in the ninth line, add the following sentence: "In addition, emphasis shall be placed on integrated rural development programmes in accordance with existing mandates";

(g) In paragraph 28.40, at the end of the second sentence, add "taking into account the need for crop/income substitution and accessibility to international markets for substituted products";

(h) In paragraph 28.44, at the end of the second sentence, insert the words "and income substitution strategies".

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

156. At its 40th and 42nd meetings, on 15 and 16 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 30 (Regional cooperation for development in Africa) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 30)/Rev.1).

Discussion

157. A number of delegations expressed the view that the programme narrative was too general and should have been more concrete as regards the actions to be undertaken.

158. A number of delegations felt that the proposed revisions overemphasized actions for promoting and supporting the development of appropriate institutions, while the need to strengthen existing institutions was not adequately reflected.

159. A number of delegations considered that the conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Commission for Africa concerning the impact of the structural adjustment programmes in Africa should have been referred to in the revisions.

160. A number of delegations felt that the social development issues in Africa, in particular crime and drug trafficking, did not receive sufficient attention. In their opinion, the relevant paragraphs of the existing narrative should be maintained.

161. One delegation suggested that the titles of subprogrammes 3, 4 and 8 should be modified to read, respectively, "Campaign against poverty and promotion of sustainable development", "Institutional strengthening" and "Development of infrastructures" in order to highlight the objectives to be achieved under these subprogrammes.

162. A number of delegations proposed the deletion of subparagraph 30.23 (f) of subprogramme 1 as it was too general.

163. Some delegations considered that, in view of the continuing dependence of African countries on export earnings, the importance of external trade for Africa should have received greater emphasis in subprogramme 2.

164. A number of delegations were of the view that the role of the creditor countries in finding a solution to the external debt problem of African countries should have been highlighted in subprogramme 1.

Conclusions and recommendations

165. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 30.22: Replace the second sentence with the following: "Although many financial and monetary institutions have been created and are operational, Member States have not availed themselves extensively of the technical support and advisory services offered in this respect";

(b) Paragraph 30.26: The second sentence of subparagraph (a) should be a separate subparagraph, (b); the remaining subparagraphs to be relettered accordingly;

(c) Paragraph 30.27: In the first sentence insert the words "and policies" after the word "objectives".

166. The Committee welcomed the new streamlined subprogramme structure.

167. The Committee recommended that subprogramme 9 (Women in development) be strengthened and designated high priority.

168. The Committee noted the vital role played by the multinational programming and operational centres of the Economic Commission for Africa in each African subregion, particularly in the areas of regional economic cooperation and integration.

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

169. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 13 (Regional cooperation for development in Europe) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 32)/Corr.1).

Discussion

170. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the scope and the title of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) quarterly bulletin East-West Joint Ventures News should be modified in order to better reflect large changes that had taken place in the region during recent years.

171. Some delegations felt that ECE activities in connection with the republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) that had not become members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) should be reflected in the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

172. The Committee recommended the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 33. Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

173. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 33 (Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 33)/Add.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

174. The Committee recommended the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 33 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification: the words in the second sentence of paragraph 33.98 between "of the 1980s" and "make it all" should be deleted.

Programme 36. International protection of and assistance to refugees

175. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 36 (International protection of and assistance to refugees) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 36)).

Discussion

176. One delegation suggested that the fourth sentence of the text proposed to replace paragraph 36.41 be expanded to reflect the positive outcome of the implementation of the returnees programme to Viet Nam.

Conclusions and recommendations

177. The Committee recommended the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 36 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

> In paragraph 36.45, after the words "South Africans", insert "and Afghans".

Programme 37. Emergency humanitarian assistance

178. At its 43rd meeting, on 16 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 37 (Emergency humanitarian assistance) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 37)).

Discussion

179. A number of delegations considered that the role of non-governmental organizations had not been sufficiently emphasized, and stressed the importance of coordinating their contribution, as well as that of relevant regional and subregional organizations, to emergency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

180. A number of delegations stressed the importance of activities related to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and the need to ensure that those activities were not duplicated elsewhere in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

181. Delegations were also concerned that an excessive proportion of the resources available to the Decade would be used for administrative support costs, as they were of the view that such resources should be devoted principally to substantive activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

182. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 37 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

> Subprogramme 2 (Disaster prevention and preparedness) should be designated high priority.

Programme 38. Public information

183. At its 37th and 38th meetings, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 38 (Public information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 38)).

Discussion

184. A number of delegations expressed the view that the new functions proposed for transfer to programme 38 would significantly change the nature of the work carried out by the Department of Public Information and went beyond the title of the programme. Concern was expressed that the Department would not be able to absorb those functions within the related resources proposed for transfer and that there might be a negative impact on existing programmes. Other delegations welcomed the proposed consolidation of information functions and hoped that it would permit more effective delivery of programmes.

185. One delegation queried the apparent citation as a mandate in the proposed revision to paragraph 38.1 of the statement adopted by the Security Council at its first meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government on 31 January 1992 (S/23500).

186. Another delegation suggested that the proposed new paragraph 38.3 should be split, with the second and third sentences becoming a new paragraph 38.4. It was also suggested that the proposed new paragraph 38.4 (e) was similar to the existing paragraph 38.4 (d) and that the two could be combined.

187. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the role of the United Nations information centres in spreading awareness of the role of the Organization, especially in the current rapidly changing world environment. Concern was expressed at the concentration of resources on a few centres in developed countries and it was suggested that resources from these centres should be redeployed to strengthen information centres in developing countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy.

188. A number of delegations queried the proposed role of the United Nations information centres in collecting information for dissemination at Headquarters and whether it fell within their mandate.

189. A number of delegations raised questions concerning the integration of field information functions between the centres and the United Nations Development Programme and one delegation wondered why this had not figured in the proposed revisions to the plan. The possibilities for increased efficiency and effectiveness were welcomed, but concern was expressed that the mandates and role of the centres should continue to be respected.

190. One delegation expressed concern that the functions included under the proposed new paragraphs 38.17 (m) to (q) risked duplicating activities of other departments, especially the Department of Political Affairs.

191. One delegation welcomed the consolidation under this programme of servicing functions for the Publications Board and expressed the hope that the Board would continue to contribute to improvements in the content and implementation of the Organization's publications programme. Other delegations stressed the role of relevant intergovernmental organs in this respect, including the Committee on Conferences and the Committee on Information.

192. One delegation expressed concern at possible duplication between the Department of Public Information and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Public Affairs, especially with regard to activities related to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

193. Another delegation suggested that activities related to collection and dissemination of information should be included in a separate new subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

194. The Committee recommended that the institutional arrangements to discharge the functions transferred from the former Office for Research and the Collection of Information should be clarified to ensure full respect for the legislative mandates governing the role of the United Nations information centres.

195. With the above understanding the Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 38 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 45. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

196. At its 35th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 11 and 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 45 (Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 45)).

Discussion

197. A number of delegations supported the general thrust of the revisions to programme 45. A number of delegations were of the view that the commitments made by the African countries towards African economic recovery and development contained in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s were not adequately reflected in the programme narrative. One delegation suggested that the economic progress achieved so far by several African countries should also be mentioned in the programme narrative.

198. A number of delegations raised questions about the establishment, functioning and funding of the high-level consultative group referred to in paragraph 45.10.

199. A number of delegations were of the view that the revisions proposed under paragraph 45.11 did not reflect the current situation and that the paragraph should be further revised.

200. A number of delegations suggested that the text of existing subparagraph (e) of paragraph 45.22 should be retained. One delegation suggested that the text of paragraph 45.22 should be revised further to reflect the provisions of the New Agenda.

Conclusions and recommendations

201. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 45.7: Add the following at the end of the paragraph: "The above broad objectives of the programme have their counterpart in the renewed responsibility and commitment entered into in the New Agenda by Africa, the overall goal of which is to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development. In particular, African countries have committed themselves to:

(i) Implementation of economic policies aimed at the transformation of the structure of their economies;

(ii) Achievement of effective regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration by establishing the African Economic Community, promoting sectoral integration of economies and developing and maintaining reliable networks of agricultural, physical, industrial and institutional infrastructures;

(iii) Intensification of the democratization process, full participation of people in development, respect of human rights and good governance;

(iv) Creation of an enabling environment that attracts domestic and foreign direct investment;

(v) Pursuit of agricultural and rural development policies and strategies to achieve food security;

(vi) Intensification of efforts in human resources development and capacity-building and deliberate and systematic integration of population factors into the development process;

(vii) Pursuit of action to arrest environmental degradation and enhance the scientific and technological capacities of the continent";

(b) Paragraph 45.10: Add the following at the end of the proposed new paragraph: "Responding to a recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session, the Secretary-General has also established, within the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, a separate and identifiable unit on Africa, headed by a Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. This unit is the focal point on issues related to African economic recovery and development and, in particular, the implementation of the New Agenda. It will also have the specific task of servicing the high-level consultative group";

(c) Paragraph 45.11: At the end of the paragraph add the following sentence: "These measures taken to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 should be strengthened to facilitate coordination and implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s";

(d) Paragraph 45.20: Replace the text of the proposed new subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (d) with the following: "To undertake a study on the need for and the feasibility of establishing a diversification fund for Africa's commodities and to promote an agreement on this issue";

(e) New paragraph 45.26: Delete new paragraph 45.26 proposed for insertion after existing paragraph 45.25.

202. The Committee recommended that the recommendations of the high-level consultative group should be communicated to Member States for consultation before they were made public.

B. Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

203. The Committee, at its 22nd to 26th meetings, from 31 August to 2 September, considered the report of the Secretary-General containing the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/47/358).

Discussion

204. In introducing the proposed outline, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management stressed that the outline was not a budget or a summary budget, but an indication in order to facilitate the preparation and adoption of the programme budget. The outline as a budget tool was still in a developmental stage.

205. The Committee was informed that the additional priorities proposed in the document were closely linked to the priorities established by the General Assembly in resolutions 45/253 and 45/255. A number of delegations considered that other priorities should have been included in the proposal. Some delegations considered that the priorities should be maintained as earlier established.

206. A number of delegations expressed concern about the apparent absence of significant change proposed in the budget outline. Concern was also expressed about the manageability of the total number of established posts. Some delegations also considered that the outline should have included the impact of the first phase of the restructuring of the Secretariat.

207. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of proper redeployment to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization.

208. Some delegations inquired about the reasons for the increase in the indicative estimates for the Department of Public Information.

209. With regard to the decrease in the appropriation for common support services for the biennium 1994-1995, one delegation, while recognizing the necessity for redeployment, wished to emphasize the importance of maintaining a high standard of services.

210. With regard to the $US 28 million proposed as the budgeting upfront of future preventive diplomacy and peacemaking missions, the Secretariat informed the Committee that it considered this provision to be a budgeting of perennials whose expenditures were subject to approval of the related mandates by the General Assembly. A number of delegations supported this approach, while others questioned whether the usual arrangements for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure would not suffice.

211. One delegation proposed that CPC should resume its work on priority-setting, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/194, section II.

212. A number of delegations emphasized that the concept of zero growth had not been endorsed by the General Assembly and that the rate of growth and the preliminary estimate were purely indicative.

213. A number of delegations stressed the importance of zero real growth dynamically applied. They recalled the decisions previously taken by the General Assembly as well as the situation in other organizations of the United Nations system.

214. A number of delegations endorsed the statement of the Secretary-General that peace and security, on the one hand, and economic and social development on the other, were so closely interlinked as to be indivisible.

215. Some delegations emphasized the need to clarify the relationship between priorities and the allocation of resources.

216. A number of delegations stated that the overall level of the budget and the real growth rate should be considered, bearing in mind the magnitude of extrabudgetary financing.

Conclusions and recommendations

217. The Committee felt that future outlines should provide more information on the programmatic assumptions underlying the proposals, as well as in general terms, and on the proposed direction of the programmatic content of the activities.

218. The Committee examined the outline using as a framework the four aspects listed in paragraph 1 of the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/47/358).

Estimate of resources

219. The Committee noted the preliminary estimate proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 4 of his report.

220. The Committee recommended, in accordance with its mandate, that the General Assembly consider the preliminary estimate of resources submitted by the Secretary-General as a basis for a decision, taking into account the following:

(a) The decision of the General Assembly with respect to revised estimates reflecting actions taken for the restructuring of the Secretariat, which continues to be implemented, in accordance with Assembly resolution 46/232 and other relevant resolutions, including those that may be adopted at the forty-seventh session;

(b) The Committee took note of the Secretary-General's statement (A/47/358, para. 7) that significant changes in staffing levels were not projected for the biennium 1994-1995, and that additional requirements would be met through redeployments in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget. The Committee stressed that programme delivery and the efficient and effective implementation of all mandates by the Secretariat should not be affected;

(c) The Committee stressed that the resources proposed should accommodate the mandates and the proposed programme of activities during the biennium, and noted the assurance given by the Secretariat in that regard. In

that connection, the Committee noted that the projected impact in 1994-1995 of existing or anticipated mandates from the General Assembly had been taken into account in the preparation of the outline (A/47/358, para. 6 (a));

(d) The Committee noted that the estimate of resources was presented at 1992-1993 initial prices and did not include the effects of inflation and currency fluctuations recosted at 1992-1993 revised rates, which would be available at the end of 1992;

(e) The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), as required by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, to be submitted in accordance with its mandate;

(f) The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's preliminary estimates (A/47/358) were of a global and indicative nature and that the breakdown of estimates for 1994-1995 by major programme was only illustrative;

(g) The Committee stressed that the budget outline, while still in a developmental stage, played an important role with regard to the predictability of resources for the forthcoming budget and early involvement of Member States, as called for by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213.

221. The Committee recommended that the treatment of perennial activities referred to in paragraph 6 of the proposed programme budget outline be considered further by the relevant bodies and that the preliminary estimate of resources and the rate of growth be recalculated, as appropriate.

222. The Committee further recommended that ACABQ keep under review the question of procedures for the commitment and use of such perennial expenditures.

Priorities

223. The Committee noted the proposals of the Secretary-General in paragraphs 10-12 of his report (A/47/358) and recommended that they be considered further by the General Assembly in the light of paragraph 12 of Assembly resolution 45/253, which includes the overall priorities reflecting broad trends as derived from the mandates of the legislative organs, contained in the introduction to the medium-term plan, as well as the views expressed by Member States thereon and, in particular, in paragraph 5 of resolution 45/255.

Growth

224. The Committee noted that, compared with the projected revised estimate for the biennium 1992-1993, growth was calculated at 0.2 per cent. That rate could change subject to the provisions of paragraph 16 (a) to (g) above.

225. The Committee was informed that under the current methodology, the rate of real growth would be higher. The Committee believed that the considerations contained in paragraph 220 (a) to (g) could contribute to reducing real growth as calculated under the existing methodology, and invited the Secretary-General to take this into account when preparing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. That programme budget should also recognize the importance for the Organization to fulfil with maximum

efficiency and cost-effectiveness all mandates entrusted to it by Member States and to respond to changing circumstances, including the new challenges it faces.

226. The Committee requested further clarification of the method of calculation of real growth. In that connection, the Committee considered that ACABQ would study the new methodology, including the concept and implementation of capital expenditure. The Committee also considered that additional methodological changes, such as the question of delayed impact, should be further examined by ACABQ and the General Assembly.

Contingency Fund

227. The Committee endorsed the size of the Contingency Fund, expressed as the percentage proposed by the Secretary-General, and recommended that the working of the Fund be kept under review.

Other issues

228. The Committee noted the significance of staff assessment and capital expenditures in the total preliminary estimate and requested that they be considered on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretariat and by the competent bodies of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and, as appropriate, the International Civil Service Commission.

C. Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget

229. At its 24th to 28th meetings, on 1 to 3 September, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the prototype of a new budget format (A/C.5/47/3).

230. The Committee recalled the recommendation it made on the prototype at its thirty-first session.

Discussion

231. Some delegations called for a study on the proper way of presenting capital expenditures in the programme budget, while other delegations called for a review of the structure of the medium-term plan and the programme budget.

232. A number of delegations considered the seminar on the methodology of the programme budget successful and the output useful.

233. The Committee was informed that section 19 (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)) was chosen as an example for the prototype because of its typicality.

234. A number of delegations cautioned against an increased amount of data and information and warned of the danger of micromanagement and the potential increase in the size of part two of the programme budget. Other delegations considered detailed information necessary.

235. A number of delegations were of the view that an indication of low priorities should be eliminated.

236. A number of delegations called for the consolidation of budget sections; others cautioned against that attempt.

237. One delegation suggested that the provision for staff assessment and income from staff assessment be deleted from the programme budget.

238. A number of delegations drew attention to the Financial Regulations and Rules concerning the transfer of resources between sections of the budget (ST/SGB/Financial Rules/Rev.3 (1985), rule 104.4).

Conclusions and recommendations

239. With regard to the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes in the presentation of the programme narrative. The Committee also approved methodological changes, such as the treatment of non-recurrent expenditures, capital expenditure and calculation of real rates of growth, on the understanding that further information on inflation, currency fluctuations and related technical issues would be provided by the Secretariat to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly.

240. The Committee recommended that the programme budget be presented in two parts; the Secretariat, in preparing that document, should emphasize simplicity and readability.

241. The Committee welcomed the proposal to highlight, in the first part of the programme budget, changes in programmes, including new and terminated activities; the Committee trusted that such changes would also be appropriately mentioned in the second part of the document presenting estimates by section. In general, the Committee recommended that the quality and exactness of the narrative be improved.

242. The Committee concurred with attempts at rationalizing the number and presentation of tables and annexes which accompany the text of the proposed programme budget.

243. The Committee emphasized the relationship between the budget and the medium-term plan. It noted that an improved programme budget from a programmatic viewpoint was still not a replacement for the medium-term plan. The Committee also emphasized the link between the budget and the outline.

244. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly give due attention to issues such as the relationship between mandates, programmes, budget sections and the Secretariat structure.

245. The Committee recognized the need for the direct responsibility of programme managers in the implementation of mandated programmes. It emphasized that responsibility and accountability, as well as improvements in the techniques and methodology for evaluation and budget and programme

performance reports, were essential for progress in the implementation of the programme budget and in the capacity of Member States to assess accurately the implementation of their mandates and decisions.

246. The Committee welcomed efforts at presenting in a uniform manner regular budget and extrabudgetary resources; the Committee acknowledged, however, the difficulties involved in forecasting levels of extrabudgetary resources and expressed the hope that improvements would be forthcoming.

247. The Committee welcomed the effort to rationalize tables in the budget wherever possible.

D. Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

E. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

General

248. At its 29th to 32nd meetings, on 4, 8 and 9 September, the Committee considered the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates as requested by the General Assembly in resolutions 46/185 and 46/232 (A/C.5/47/2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts (A/C.5/47/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on section 15 (UNCTAD) relating to the 13 posts formerly attached to the subprogramme on trade among countries having different economic and social systems (A/C.5/47/7).

249. The Committee was informed by the Secretariat that the need for more flexibility in the use of the staff resources of the Organization had to be seen in the context of a number of factors, including the persistent financial difficulties of the United Nations and the increase in the overall demand for the human resources of the Secretariat. It was indicated in the report on revised estimates that a dynamic policy for filling vacant posts would be warranted "by the fact that the staff resources of the Organization are, in many domains of activity, stretched to the limit, including in relation to a dramatic increase in peace-keeping operations" (A/C.5/47/2, para. 19). In this regard, it was noted that, on 15 August 1992, 235 Professional staff members were assigned to peace-keeping operations, in addition to 222 persons recruited from outside the Secretariat for those operations. Those 235 staff members represented approximately 6 per cent of the established Professional posts financed from the regular budget. Moreover, also on 15 August 1992, 1,394 staff members in the General Service and related categories were assigned to those operations.

250. With regard to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, the commitment of the Secretary-General to reform had been reaffirmed. Reporting to Member States

on reform was considered part of his mandate. Yet, at the present time, the Secretary-General did not intend to submit a specific report to the General Assembly under that agenda item, since the restructuring exercise, which implied the ongoing review of efficiency, was still under way. The Committee was informed by the Secretariat that an explanatory note thereon would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The Assembly would, moreover, consider the report on workload analysis.

Discussion

251. A number of delegations stated that the report on revised estimates, apart from the financial implications of the first phase of restructuring, should have contained more information on its programmatic aspects in conformity with resolution 46/232. A number of delegations supported the initiatives of the Secretary-General and the steps undertaken to reorganize the Secretariat in order to improve its effectiveness in the implementation of mandates obtained from the legislative bodies. They stated that the restructuring exercise was the prerogative of the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization. A number of delegations suggested that the Secretary-General should be allowed more discretionary powers with regard to the organization of the Secretariat, comparable to the practice in other organizations of the United Nations family.

252. A number of delegations expressed concern that the delivery of programmes might be affected by the restructuring, particularly in the economic and social sectors, and that the redeployment of staff might result in a certain disequilibrium between units of the Secretariat and even have certain demoralizing effects on staff members. A number of delegations stressed their expectation that the Secretary-General's decision to suspend external recruitment would be called off as soon as possible so as to permit the inflow of younger people and additional talent, as well as to rectify existing inequalities in the geographical distribution of posts that the "freeze" tended to petrify.

253. A number of delegations regretted the lack of a report reviewing the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, the submission of which to the Committee on Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly had been requested by the Committee in its conclusions at the thirty-first session, which had been endorsed by the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

254. A number of delegations expressed support for the reduction in high-level posts. While a number of delegations expressed appreciation of the accompanying reduction in terms of resulting savings, other delegations stated that budgetary reductions should not be conceived as a primary goal of the restructuring exercise.

255. A number of delegations agreed with the statement that the delays in payment of assessments constituted one of the main causes for the Secretariat's lack of effectiveness. Other delegations disagreed with that statement.

256. One delegation proposed that a new publication be prepared by the United Nations containing a world economic and social survey.

257. A number of delegations stated that, as part of the restructuring process, staffing of the Centre for Human Rights should be strengthened. Other delegations stressed that staffing of the Department of Economic and Social Development should not suffer in the process.

258. A number of delegations considered that flexibility in human resource management needed to be enhanced. Other delegations expressed concern about the flexibility proposed for the Secretary-General in the management of posts. A number of delegations expressed the view that the need for more flexibility in the management of vacant posts had not been proved, and that the Secretariat already had at its disposal procedures which allowed a rapid response to changing requirements. Other delegations proposed that the degree of flexibility in human resource management be regulated through consultations between Member States and the Secretariat.

259. A number of delegations expressed the view that the restructuring process should be extended to middle- and lower-level posts so as to bring about a sharply delineated division of responsibilities within the Secretariat in carrying out its activities in order to get rid of those of marginal significance or those that were unproductive and thus increase the overall efficiency of the Organization. A number of delegations emphasized the need for continued effort to identify such activities with a view to their eventual elimination.

260. With regard to the forthcoming phases of the restructuring process, a number of delegations pointed out that the effects of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had yet to be incorporated in the exercise, and that the review of the relationship between the Department of Economic and Social Development and the regional commissions had not yet been completed. A number of delegations stressed that the assumptions on the programmatic impact of the related restructuring should be made transparent.

Conclusions and recommendations

261. The Committee took note of the revised estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and recommended that the General Assembly should endorse the proposed reduction in the number of high-level posts. The Committee stressed that that reduction should enhance the decision-making capacity of the Secretariat while streamlining its structures, as well as contribute to the coherent implementation of all mandates of the Organization.

262. The Committee regretted the lack of information on the programmatic aspects of the revised estimates and recommended that the General Assembly be provided with such information. The Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General should make available for its consideration and for the Assembly the relevant information on the various qualitative aspects of the restructuring process. Such reporting could take place in the context of the implementation of the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 46/232.

263. The Committee expressed the view that the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning the treatment of vacancies called for in-depth consideration by the bodies concerned. The Committee stressed that the issue of greater flexibility in the use of resources appropriated by the General Assembly had to be examined in the context of the existing financial rules and regulations of the Organization and bearing in mind the need for more transparency in the information being provided to Member States, including the information in the proposed programme budget and in the reports on programme performance and budget performance. Issues such as the use of workload analysis and the development of evaluation techniques were of importance for the capacity of Member States to exercise control over the implementation of their decisions on programme and budgetary matters.

264. The Committee confirmed that the restructuring exercise should continue to be carried out by the Secretary-General as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/232, and that, in its view, consultations between Member States and the Secretary-General on the restructuring process were essential.

265. The Committee took note of the report on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts (A/C.5/47/4), but expressed disappointment concerning the lack of substance in that report.

266. The Committee also took note of the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning 13 posts formerly attached to the UNCTAD subprogramme on trade among countries having different economic and social systems (see A/C.5/47/7), and recommended that the General Assembly should approve that proposal, on the understanding that a final decision thereon would be taken within the framework of the programme budget for the forthcoming biennium.

267. Furthermore, the Committee took note of the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

III. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Question of the timing and selection of a topic for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

268. At its 28th and 29th meetings, on 3 and 4 September, the Committee considered preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination, as well as the timing and selection of a topic for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings.

Discussion

269. A number of delegations suggested as a possible topic the functioning and role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. Another delegation suggested that, if the Joint Meetings were to take place in October 1992, a possible topic might be the preparations for the world summit for social development.

Conclusions and recommendations

270. The Committee expressed regret that it had not been in a position at its session in May to decide on the topic and timing of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings because, inter alia, it had been informed at that time that the second regular session of 1992 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination had not been planned.

271. The Committee was of the view that adequate preparation for the Joint Meetings was necessary.

272. The Committee had before it four topics suggested by the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the Joint Meetings: (a) commodity problems and their consequences for development; (b) results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system; (c) follow-up to the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; and (d) investments in human development.

273. The Committee felt that, for the Joint Meetings to engage in an effective and fruitful discussion, only one topic should be selected.

274. The Committee decided to propose to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination be held in the spring of 1993 to discuss the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system.

B. System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

275. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 16 September 1992, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (E/AC.51/1992/5).

General

276. The Committee was informed about the coordination mechanisms at Headquarters and at the field level. It was felt that existing coordination mechanisms should be used for the coherent implementation of the Plan.

Discussion

277. A number of delegations welcomed the report, as it was the first time that United Nations activities related to Africa had been presented in the context of a system-wide plan. A number of delegations were of the view that that was a first step towards the development of a real system-wide plan. The view was also expressed that CPC should have been clearer with respect to its targeted users in its request for the preparation of the Plan.

278. A number of delegations stressed that the Plan of Action should be seen as a dynamic and flexible instrument for agencies of the United Nations system in carrying out activities for African economic recovery and development.

279. A number of delegations, in referring to previous plans of action, stressed the importance of the implementation of the System-wide Plan for Africa and its use as a guideline by the agencies of the United Nations system.

280. A number of delegations were of the view that the Plan of Action was mainly a compilation of activities. It was felt, however, that the Plan of Action would provide a useful framework for action by the United Nations system.

281. A number of delegations were of the view that, since African economic recovery was one of the five priority areas of the medium-term plan that were identified in General Assembly resolutions 45/253 and 45/255, adequate resources should be made available for the implementation and follow-up of the Plan of Action.

282. A number of delegations emphasized the need for African responsibilities in respect of democratization, accountability and respect for human rights to be included in the Plan.

283. A number of delegations wished to be advised of the outcome of the current initiative to review the Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP) and its implication for the process of launching and implementing new strategies and action programmes for sustainable forestry development in Africa, and of the steps which FAO was taking to coordinate its activities with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), given the latter's role in sustainable forest management.

Conclusions and recommendations

284. The Committee expressed concern about the late issue of the report, which, combined with its length, put unwelcome and unnecessary pressure on it in carrying out its work.

285. The Committee noted that the Plan had the structure of a compilation of activities and considered it to be a first step towards a more integrated approach as its implementation developed. The Committee recommended that the link between the System-wide Plan, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the United Nations medium-term plan be clarified.

286. The Committee expressed disappointment at the minimal reference to the role of women in development and recommended that that be redressed to include, in particular, access of women to the decision-making level.

287. The Committee recommended that, in accordance with the objective of raising global awareness of the critical socio-economic and environmental situation in Africa, the Secretary-General should launch, at the earliest possible time, the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

288. The Committee recommended that the priorities of the System-wide Plan be used as guidelines for the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system related to African development.

289. It also recommended that the Secretary-General should call upon all relevant executive heads of United Nations agencies and bodies to accord high priority to the implementation of the Plan.

290. The Committee emphasized the role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its Chairman in the follow-up and coordinated implementation of the Plan. The Committee recommended that the United Nations Funds and Programmes, the specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions should intensify specific programmes and activities related to Africa in their work programmes. The Committee urged the specialized agencies to continue to monitor the situation of resources available for Africa.

291. The Committee recommended that the Plan be monitored and updated in the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for African Economic Recovery and Development. At the intergovernmental level, the Committee decided to keep the implementation of the Plan under review considering that the follow-up and implementation of the Plan needed to be discussed with ACC at a later stage.

292. The Committee recommended that, since the Plan represented the contribution of the United Nations system to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in accordance with paragraph 39 of annex II to General Assembly resolution 46/151, the process of updating it should be carried out after each review of the implementation of the New Agenda by the General Assembly.

293. The Committee recommended that revisions be submitted for consideration by CPC in 1994, 1996 and thereafter as may be decided by CPC.

294. The Committee also recommended that, in view of the importance of the Plan and the unsuccessful outcome of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, the Secretary-General should play a leading role in its implementation in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the resumed thirty-second session of the Committee

1. Organization of work.

2. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (b) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (c) Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget;

   (d) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

3. Coordination questions:

   (a) Question of the timing and selection of a topic for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

4. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its resumed thirty-second session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirty-second session

A/47/6	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997
General considerations	
Programme 1	Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information
Programme 2	Political and Security Council Affairs
Programme 3	Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services
Programme 4	Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization
Programme 5	Question of Palestine
Programme 6	Elimination of apartheid
Programme 7	Disarmament
Programme 8	Peaceful uses of outer space
Programme 12	Global development issues and policies
Programme 13	Trade and development
Programme 14 and Add.1	Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development
Programme 15	Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes
Programme 16 and Corr.1	Environment
Programme 17	Science and technology for sustainable development
Programme 18	Population
Programme 19	Natural resources
Programme 20	Energy
Programme 21	Public administration and finance
Programme 22	Human settlements

Programme 23	Transnational corporations
Programme 24	Statistics
Programme 28	International drug control
Programme 30 and Corr.1	Regional cooperation for development in Africa
Programme 32 and Corr.1	Regional cooperation for development in Europe
Programme 33 and Add.1	Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Programme 36	International protection of and assistance to refugees
Programme 37	Disaster relief and mitigation, and special emergency programmes
Programme 38	Public information
Programme 45	Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development
A/47/358	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995
A/C.5/47/2	Report of the Secretary-General containing revised estimates as requested by the General Assembly in resolutions 46/185 and 46/232
A/C.5/47/3	Report of the Secretary-General containing a prototype of a new budget format
A/C.5/47/4	Note by the Secretary-General on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts
A/C.5/47/7	Report of the Secretary-General concerning 13 posts formerly attached to the subprogramme on trade among countries having different economic and social systems
E/AC.51/1992/1	Provisional agenda
E/AC.51/1992/5	Report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development
E/AC.51/1992/L.2/Rev.2	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation

E/AC.51/1992/L.5 and 1-36	Draft report of the Committee on its resumed thirty-second session
E/AC.51/1992/CRP.3/Rev.1	Proposed programme of work of the Committee
E/AC.51/1992/CRP.4	Consideration of the proposed revisions to programme 11 (Overall issues and policies, including coordination) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997
E/AC.51/1992/INF/2	List of delegations